

MacQuinn Gravel Permit Standards Review

#3 – will not adversely impact existing ground water, springs or ponds.

I wish to reiterate the concerns I expressed in the Site Plan Review. While I find the assertions of Summit and Ransom largely persuasive, I am not fully convinced and, therefore, I would suggest, were the project to be approved in some form, a condition so as to minimize potential impacts to the town's groundwater resources. I would propose that excavation be limited, in this three year permit, to a depth of, say, 120 feet (about 40 feet above determined deep water table level) and that wells, old and new, cited in the application be monitored twice annually for water table elevations. This would provide some data which could be used when evaluating subsequent applications. Without such monitoring of water tables in the early stages to act as a warning in the case of threats to water quantity, I am reluctant to take the risk which Dr. Brutsaert cites, despite the findings of Summit and Gerber.

#6 – adverse impact on surrounding properties

I have addressed this concern broadly in my comments with reference to the proposal's conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. Again, I note that the proposed operations would take place just a few hundred feet behind homes along Lamoine Beach Road and Mill Road. Residents, and school children, I think it important to add, would be subject for years, decades even, to the daily sounds of gravel trucks, loaders and sorters as the gravel is extracted and removed from the premises. While the noises themselves may not surpass the thresholds as stated in the ordinance, the continual background impacts of these operations do affect adversely the quality of life of the residents and most certainly the market value of properties in the area. The board has received testimony to that effect. For me, the location of the site proposed for this large scale gravel operation in the neighborhood of the most densely populated area of town is not appropriate and adversely impacts many, many surrounding properties.